

Newsletter



KAIPTC
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KAIPTC LAUNCHES BOOK on election ahead of December 7 polls

It is widely recognized that election periods are usually times of tension in Ghana, when the electoral processes before, during and after the elections registers some unfortunate incidences of violence. Leading up to the December 7 polls, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), launched the second edition of the book, 'Managing Election-Related Conflict and Violence for Democratic Stability in Ghana', in September 2016.

The book, which is funded by the Governments of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, interrogates the anomaly of the increasing acceptance and encouragement of violence by political actors and its functional utility in Ghana's democracy from varied perspectives. The event witnessed several dignitaries including government officials, academia, religious leaders, civil society as well as officers from the Ghana Armed forces in attendance.

The Commandant of the KAIPTC, Air Vice Marshall Griffiths S. Evans, delivering his welcome statement stated emphatically that "the future of Ghana's democracy remains fragile; as democratic gains continue to manifest, alongside, a myriad of threats and challenges are also exhibited". He further stressed that "the greatest source of these threats and uncertainties seems to derive, ironically, from events and processes situated in the electoral process itself".

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He shared his disbelief and astonishment at the alarming realities of election-related issues described in the book, and charged all present to acquaint themselves with the book and be apostles and envoys of peace during the upcoming polls.

The Inspector General of the Ghana Police Service, Mr. John Kudalor told the gathering that managing elections is a complex affair, adding that policing elections is a special duty of the police which demands fairness and impartiality. He noted that the Police Service, through the National Election Security Task Force, has identified cracks that could compromise the security of the nation if left unattended to. These challenges, he said are being resolved multi-dimensionally, noting for example his meetings with key stakeholders including the youth, political party leaders, traditional leaders, religious groups, and the media. He urged all to be law abiding citizens during the elections.

Giving an overview of the contents of the book, the Director of the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research at the KAIPTC, Dr. Kwesi Aning noted that the demeanour among people in Ghana during election periods defeats theories that, holding multiple elections leads to a consolidation of democratic stability. The lead editor of the book added that the situation creates an urgent sense of insecurity and predisposition to violence in the minds of most Ghanaians.

He noted that there is the possibility of violence erupting in situations where there are already underlying or 'root causes' of conflict. Such causes include the deliberate exclusion of specific groups from the developmental agenda; a history of ethnic and religious tensions; exuberant and idle youth and political vigilante groups ready to be used to fester trouble.

The book, he noted was timely, as it seeks to address some of the conceptual as well as practical challenges confronting the electoral process in Ghana. Its novelty lies in the ability of the authors to use both empirical data and existing literature to throw more light on both old and emerging security threats as well as general challenges to the electoral process in Ghana.

He concluded the overview by observing that it provides national stakeholders and policy makers with analyses for reference in formulating strategic responses to the issues raised to ensure a peaceful and credible electioneering period in 2016 and beyond.

The Most Reverend Prof. Emmanuel Asante, Chairperson of the National Peace Council of Ghana, and the keynote speaker for the occasion, stated that the publication of the book could not have come at a better time, as Ghana goes to the polls. He was delighted that "peaceful, free and fair elections have increasingly become accepted as the best possible means of attaining political office in the country".

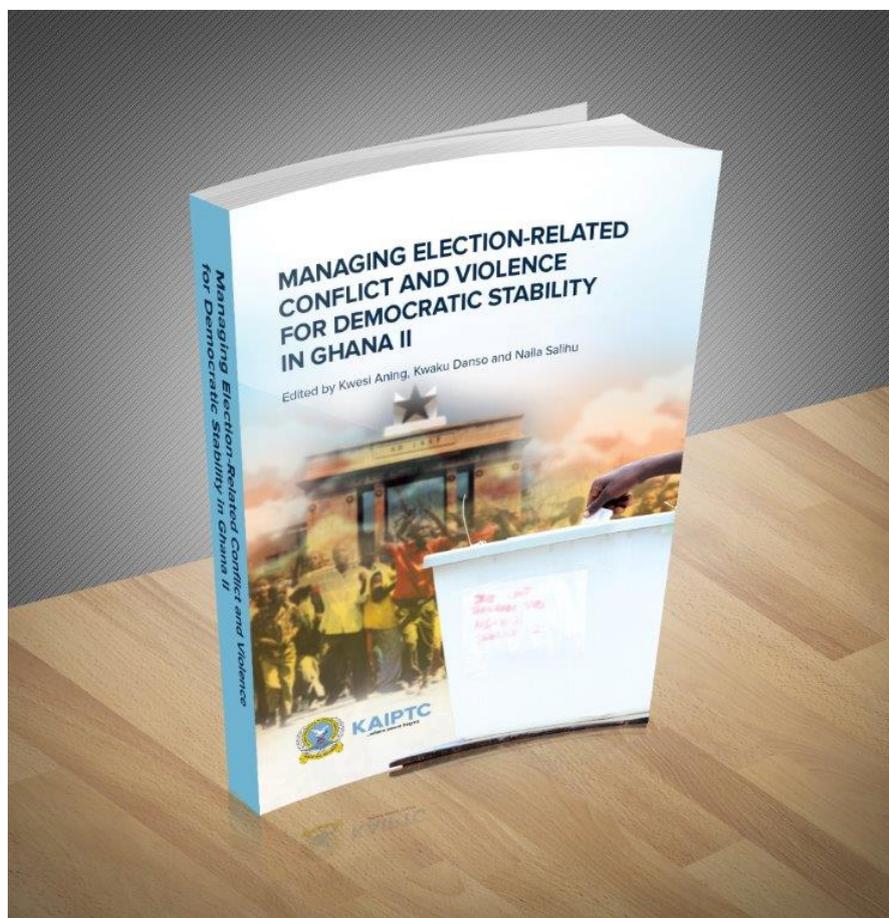
Rev. Asante lamented that the electoral process is faced with many challenges in all three phases (before, during and after elections). These include burning and looting of property, seizure of ballot boxes by 'macho men' and unemployed youth, and intimidation and physical assault of voters.

In addition he stated that, "other challenges stem from intemperate language by political actors, abuse of public law and manipulation of religious and ethnic identity for political purposes". Rev. Asante revealed that, "The book also identifies strategic approaches that can help to anticipate and prevent the types of violent conflicts that frequently accompany elections in Ghana".

He commended the KAIPTC and its development partners for this rich resource which would serve as a useful guide to key actors for the December polls and beyond.

Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante officially launched the second edition of the book, and members of the audience received personal copies for free.

Free copies of the book were distributed to key stakeholders throughout the country.



89 Security personnel benefit from maiden training course on electoral violence and security



A total of eighty-nine (89) personnel drawn from the security agencies participated in the maiden training session of a course in Elections and Security at the KAIPTC. Sponsored by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, participants were taken through topics and modules on Electoral Violence and Security in advance of the December polls in Ghana.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the course, His Excellency Christoph Retzlaff, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, admonished security personnel to ensure the December 7 polls was carried out in a free and fair manner devoid of any acts of violence.

He further stated that the security services were responsible for safeguarding all persons and resources involved in the electoral process, noting that “the law enforcement agencies must take steps to ensure that voters, candidates, poll-workers, observers, and other actors involved in the elections, experience the process free from fear or harm, and to ensure that sensitive election materials are secured”.

Mr. Retzlaff was of the view that, a large chunk of electoral violence can be prevented if the right steps are taken, stating that effective violence mitigation plans should include identifying early warning signs, mobilizing citizen monitoring and mitigation efforts, dispatching properly trained security forces, coordinating among government agencies and educating the public.

He also urged organizations such as Election Management Bodies, the Ministry of the Interior and other relevant stakeholders to engross themselves in creating a secure election environment by working to develop, implement, and review security measures throughout the electoral process.

The German Ambassador charged civil society, trade unions, religious and traditional leaders, and the media, to secure the electoral environment by mediating, promoting political tolerance and enhancing public confidence in the electoral process.

Commandant of the KAIPTC, AVM Griffiths Evans, shared that the overall goal of the course was to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies in the prevention and management of potential electoral violence. He added that it was also expected to provide relevant information and fundamental understanding of the roles of the police and other stakeholders in the management of the electoral process.

He bemoaned recent cases of electoral violence in different forms in Nigeria, La Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, among other countries on the continent. This, the Commandant, said stems out of political, economic and social unrest in society. He admonished the participants to make the course profitable to themselves and the nation particularly, by absorbing the knowledge and experiences that will be shared, in order to positively impact the electoral process.

The training course was held for a period of two weeks.

Police Pre-Deployment Training held at the KAIPTC



The 6th edition of the Police Pre-Deployment Training (PPDT) course has been held at the KAIPTC.

Stressing on the main aim of the course, the Deputy Commandant of the KAIPTC, Brigadier General Emmanuel Kotia noted that the course will provide operational capacity building and enhance individual law enforcement skills and knowledge, improve personal relations and teamwork in diverse cultures, and promote a common understanding of international policing in conflict resolution.

The two-week course, he emphasized, was in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Standard Training Modules for Peace Support Operations.

This, he said, gives course participants insight into the philosophy and working methods of UN and AU Missions in general.

The Deputy Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ghana, His Excellency Bernhard Abels, in his opening address, noted his country's continuous support to the KAIPTC; "the German Government has supported KAIPTC financially and technically since its inception in 2003 in a wide range of areas...in 2016 Germany is financing 19 courses that are organized and implemented by KAIPTC in different West-African countries with the amount of 1.5 million Euros", he noted.

Mr. Abels encouraged the participants especially, "to take all the opportunities that the course offers you to enhance your knowledge, skills and competencies...and also take the opportunity to get to know your colleagues, because good personal relations between all actors in peacebuilding and peacekeeping contribute to the success of the overall goal to ensure peace and security", he added.

KAIPTC and African Union Commission sign agreement to counter terrorism in Africa



In recent years, the rise of terrorism and terrorist-related activities on the African continent has assumed disturbing levels, and threaten the peace, security and the achievement of the developmental agenda of nations. To help curb this menace, the KAIPTC, in collaboration with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACRST), under the African Union Commission (AUC), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate in the field of Study and Research on Terrorism and associated related training.

Among others, the MoU will see both institutions collaborating to conduct research and studies into Terrorism and Violent Extremism, providing expertise in matters relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa and assisting member states of the African Union to develop structures and strategies to prevent and combat terrorism.

Additionally, the two organizations will jointly develop and run counter terrorism special training modules for AU member states and Regional Economic Communities' Counter-Terrorism Focal points, Peace Support Missions and other AU field practitioners. This partnership, according to the two parties, is part of measures to intensify the fight against terrorism through an informed and strategic approach aimed at making the venture unattractive.

Air Vice Marshal GS Evans, Commandant of the KAIPTC described the joint engagement between both institutions as an historic event. "Today is a great day for the KAIPTC, as we further deepen our long standing engagement with the AU. This formal agreement is an expression of the confidence the AU has in the work and potential of the KAIPTC", he noted.

The AU Chairperson's Special Representative for Counter Terrorism Cooperation and Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, Lt Colonel Gbevlo-Lartey (rtd), at the official signing ceremony of the MoU with the KAIPTC, stated that "Our mandate at the ACRST is to do research and training into terrorism and make the results of such studies and research available to member states so they could build capacity.

We are truly thrilled about this partnership with the KAIPTC which furthers the fulfilment of this mandate, and holds great prospects to sharing the counter narrative on the spread and impact of terrorism on the continent”.

The Director for the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research at KAIPTC, Dr. Kwesi Aning, noted that “we fully recognize the challenges that terrorism poses for all member states. With the deepening of our collaboration with the AU through the signing of this MoU between both institutions, we will jointly continue to support the fight against terrorism in a very effective and targeted manner and collectively work to stem the ever rising terrorist activities on the continent”.

The ACRST is a Centre of Excellence of the African Union Commission (AUC) for the Study and Research on Terrorism and Violent Extremism, and operates under the auspices of the Peace and Security Council of the AUC which is responsible for the implementation of regional, continental and international counter-terrorism instruments and coordinating continental efforts in the prevention and combating of terrorism.

The MoU shall enter into force on the date of signing by the competent authorities of the Centres of Excellence, and shall be in force for five (5) years subject to a renewal.

KAIPTC and ECOWAS strengthen relations



A roundtable meeting has been held between the KAIPTC, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Accra. The meeting was organized within the framework of the Centre's cooperation with ECOWAS, and aimed at deepening the already existing relationship between the two institutions. Additionally, the meeting created a basis for open deliberations and a sustainable information exchange, while institutionalizing a platform for regular information sharing as well as discussions on topical issues between the two institutions.

A total of twenty five (25) persons made up of Directors and technical staff from both institutions attended the meeting. Discussions centred on issues of training, research and policy as well as general flow of information between the two organisations. At the end of the meeting, the two institutions agreed on key action points to be implemented within the respective organisations.

The action points touched on training in election observation, integrating gender into all ECOWAS – KAIPTC collaborative efforts, mediation facilitation as well as research and policy. One key outcome of the meeting was a decision to institutionalise the meeting and hold it annually from 2017.

Following the biannual meeting of ECOWAS and the Training Centres of Excellence (TCEs) Commandants Meeting held in April this year, it was discovered that bilateral cooperation between the two entities could be further explored for future developments.

The one-day meeting was geared towards specific action within the context of a Memorandum of Understanding. The two entities thought it wise to engage each other at an operational level in aspects of election observations within member states. It was also recommended that trained personnel from the various KAIPTC courses be put on the ECOWAS data base system. Another key action point for implementation was for the KAIPTC to lend support to the gender directorate and the gender mediation departments at ECOWAS.

The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) Support Project to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in cooperation with the GIZ Support Programme to the ECOWAS Commission, sponsored the meeting.

Electoral Commission/Ghana Police admonish politicians and signal possible violence at selected constituencies



The Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Ghana, Mrs. Charlotte Osei, has urged political leaders to restrain from exploiting the youth to fuel violence during the elections. She said this at a colloquium organized by KAIPTC to critically consider constructive ways of overcoming violence during elections in Ghana.

Addressing the gathering of experts and policy makers, the EC boss cited incidents of proliferation of illegal arms, rising levels of unemployment, alcoholism and drug abuse among the youth as the greatest threat to the country's peace prior to the December polls, and entreated politicians not to exploit this youth bulge for their personal interests.

She hinted that there is the likelihood of hostile activities occurring in about 81 out of the 275 constituencies in the country, and added that “the history of six successful elections in the past 24 years should not become the basis for complacency because we seem to have an increasingly volatile political culture. Among the 25 registered political parties that we have in Ghana, we have two strong ones that seem to dominate our political landscape”.

She continued that “we are going into elections where one party believes it must win and the other believes it cannot lose. However, it's a contest where there will be a winner and many losers, so in spite of all the preparations and the experience we have, this election is beginning to look like a volatile event”. She urged all to support the EC to deliver free, transparent and credible elections.

Mr. Prosper Kwame Ablorh, Director General of the Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID), speaking on behalf of the Inspector General of Police, shared that the Police Service has identified over 5,000 potential flashpoints in the forthcoming elections, and these identified locations will be closely monitored to curb any troubles.

He added that “proliferation of small arms, terror activities across neighbouring regions, chieftaincy disputes, and land disputes, are potential causes of clashes between citizens”. The recognition of these challenges, he said, led to the establishment of the National Election Security Architecture (NESA) in January 20, 2016 to plan for security for the 2016 general elections.

He added that the security agencies had adequately prepared to ensure peaceful and violent free general elections come December 7, when Ghanaians go to the polls to choose a President and parliamentarians for the country.

Participants in the one-day colloquium discussed five key sub-themes, namely “Identifying potential flash points of electoral disputes and violence; Election observation; Adjudication of cases of electoral disputes and offences; Election security arrangements; and Capacity for peace”.

A communique was subsequently issued and published as an outcome of the Colloquium.

Communique issued at a Stakeholders Colloquium on the theme “Reducing the incidence of violence in election 2016 and beyond” held at The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra, Ghana on 20 September 2016

1. Preamble

On Wednesday 7 September 2016, The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), held a 1-day stakeholders colloquium on the theme: “Reducing the Incidence of Violence in Election 2016 And Beyond”.

The colloquium was attended by over 120 participants representing - government and security agencies, civil societies, think tanks, academia, diplomatic corps, development partners and the media.

At the Colloquium, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) delivered the Keynote address. Mrs. Charlotte Osei, Chairperson, Electoral Commission was the Guest Speaker. Statements were received from: Her Ladyship Justice Georgina Theodora Wood, Chief Justice; Mr. John Kudalor, Inspector General of Police (IGP); Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante, Chairman, National Peace Council.

Goodwill messages were also received from H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor, Former President, Republic of Ghana and H.E. Christine Evans-Klock, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative. A brief overview of a book on 'Election Related Violence in Ghana' was presented by Dr. Kwesi Aning, Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR), KAIPTC. The Colloquium was chaired by Prof. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu, Director, Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy, (LECIAD), University of Ghana, Legon.

2. Development of the Communiqué

The final communiqué was based on four key thematic areas as follows:

- a. Flash Points and Election Security Mechanisms;
- b. Adjudication and Prosecution of Electoral Disputes/Offences;
- c. Election Observation; and
- d. Early Warning, Resilience and Capacity for Peace.

At the end of deliberations, the participants agreed on the following recommendations:

2.1 That security agencies, especially the police should act professionally in all instances involving electoral offenses and violence, without fear or favour, and in accordance with the law.

2.2 That the National Elections Security Task Force should sensitize political parties and the general public about the security arrangements for the elections, especially providing adequate notices about flash points, activities of vigilante groups, conduct of political party rallies, and restricted zones earmarked for orderly voting, counting, collation, and declaration of ballots.

2.3 That there should be adequate security protection for critical installations, including protection for political party candidates, officials and personnel of the Electoral Commission, media and the judiciary.

2.4 That the Chief Justice and the Judicial Service should be commended for taking steps to educate magistrates and judges on modalities and principles for adjudicating election offenses and petition, and for initiating amendments to the Supreme Court Rules to ensure the speedy adjudication of election petitions at both parliamentary and presidential levels.

2.5 That the judiciary should continue to evince fairness and impartiality in the adjudication of election petition and to endeavour to render their judgments in such plain language as would enable the citizenry to appreciate and understand the outcomes of the adjudication.

2.6 That the Attorney General, Police and Courts should ensure expeditious prosecution of all well founded electoral offenses. The Attorney General should not issue any Nolle Prosequis to terminate prosecutions of any persons whose trial is well founded on the basis of police investigation.

2.7 That the courts should at all times be mindful of the rights and dignity of all persons including contemnors. The courts should continue to exercise its power of contempt to maintain the dignity and majesty of the courts. This would restrain persons and groups who may seek to act in ways that would interfere with the due administration of justice.

2.8 That the Electoral Commission should ensure that polling materials are adequate and polling stations open on time on Election Day.

2.9 That the Electoral Commission should deepen stakeholder engagements and dialogues, especially with institutions such as the National Peace Council, Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC), Police, Political Parties, Media and Civil Society Organisations.

2.10 That the political parties, religious bodies and opinion leaders should engage youth groups in order to harness and channel their energies into productive undertaking.

2.11 That the media should be circumspect in their reportage, and also abide by the media code of ethics on electioneering. The political parties and the general public should avoid using social media to misrepresent information and not to incite violence among the electorate.

2.12 That all Ghanaian citizens should be civil in exercising their electoral franchise throughout the electoral process.

Whereupon, we, the under listed Chairperson for the Colloquium and Facilitators/Moderators for the Syndicate Groups, set our hands to this Communiqué on the date below:
 Done in Accra on 20 September, 2016;

- 1) Prof. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu, Director, Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy, University of Ghana
- 2) Prof. Baffour Agyeman-Duah, Governance Expert and Political Analyst.
- 3) Major General Nii Carl Coleman (rtd), Chairman, Civic Forum Initiative.
- 4) Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, Peacebuilding and Early Warning Expert.
- 5) Prof. Ken Agyeman-Attafuah, Criminologist and Conflict Resolution Expert.

KAIPTC records increased subscriptions for its academic programmes



Subscriptions to the KAIPTC's academic programmes saw an impressive increase this year. In total, 36 students were matriculated for the Masters in Conflict, Peace and Security Programmes (MCPS), while the Executive Master of Arts in Conflict Peace and Security Programme (EMCPS) had 35 students.

Another set of 35 students also applied and were admitted to the Masters in Gender, Peace and Security Programme (MGPS), with three (3) students also applying to pursue the Doctor of Philosophy in International Conflict Management Programme.

Addressing the students during the matriculation of the EMCPS, Brigadier General Kotia, Deputy Commandant of the KAIPTC, noted that since the Centre began offering its academic programmes, there has been progressive subscription from people with diverse professional backgrounds from Africa and other parts of the world.

He added that the African continent has been plagued with conflicts and civil unrest, and part of the solution was to build the needed capacity through the introduction of specific academic programmes to prevent, or manage these situations.

“It is a fact that Africa, and especially the West African sub-region, is continually faced with security threats of which terrorism stands tall. “As an ECOWAS designated Training Centre of Excellence, we at the KAIPTC, with your reciprocal support, pledge to tutor you, through the delivery of relevant courses and modules, to fully equip you, to meet these challenges”.

Prof. Osei-Hwedie, in a brief statement to the EMCPS students, encouraged them to help maintain and advance the high standards set for the course and the KAIPTC. He said, “The Executive Masters programme has an excellent reputation and very high standards; we hope that with your support we can improve on, and sustain this honour”.

He assured the students of the quality and rich experience of lecturers at the Centre, which includes Army Generals, Professors and practitioners from various universities and institutions both within and outside the country.

Speaking on behalf of the course participants, Nana Gyentsi Amoako X, Chief of Akwidaa-Akyinim in the Ahanta West District, was particularly overjoyed as he hoped the course will go a long way to help him confront the never ending chieftaincy and land disputes in his jurisdiction. He urged traditional leaders to be fair and decisive in their dealing while avoiding corruption of all sorts, to end the rising land and chieftaincy disputes.

All the academic programmes at the KAIPTC are for one (1) year each, except the PhD programme which is for four (4) years.

KAIPTC holds 9th Protection of Civilian Course

The 9th edition of the Protection of Civilians in Conflict (PoC) course, has been hosted at the KAIPTC in Accra. The two-week course, sponsored by the Swiss Government, has been held in succession at the Centre since 2012.

The course is strategically aimed at enhancing the capacity of participants for the effective implementation of PoC mandates in Peace Operations, in order to mitigate the effects of conflicts on civilians.

At the end of the course, participants are expected to demonstrate an advanced understanding of the concept of PoC in Peace Support Operations, explain the legal and normative frameworks that support the PoC, compare the different ways to protect civilians in armed conflicts and finally identify the need for a PoC plan and implement the mandate.

Major Jost Grob, Course Director of PoC reiterated that, “one of the main objectives of the course is to enable all participants, whether civil, police or army, to integrate the fundamental principle that protection of civilians is a global and collective engagement”.

A total of 31 participants drawn mainly from the African continent, with a few coming from Europe and Asia, made the list for this year's PoC course. The participants were privileged to undergo training under the tutelage of renowned instructors.



Some of them include Brigadier General Emmanuel Kotia (Deputy Commandant of the KAIPTC), Mrs. Joana Osei-Tutu (member of the Academic Faculty of the KAIPTC), Mrs. Nana Asantewa Afadzina from West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Major General Henry Kwami Anyidoho (rtd) (Ghana Armed Forces), Brigadier General Benjamin F Kusi (Ghana Armed Forces), Dr. Benjamin Agordzo (Ghana Police Service), Colonel Benjamin Amoah-Boakye (Ghana Armed Forces), Mr. Frank O. Okyere (member of the academic faculty of the KAIPTC).

Experts and Stakeholders discuss ways to counter Violent Extremism at KAIPTC

Security experts and stakeholders converged at the KAIPTC from 7-8 November, 2016, to interrogate the root causes of violent extremism and how Human Security initiatives could be used to counter the growing trend on the African continent.

The two-day workshop served as a great platform to identify the roles of stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels in the prevention and countering of violent extremism.

The deliberations also focused on ways of involving communities through strengthening traditional law enforcement methods in preventing and responding to Violent Extremism. This was jointly facilitated by the KAIPTC in collaboration with African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), and was sponsored by the Spanish Government.

Commandant of the KAIPTC, Air vice Marshall Griffiths Santrofi Evans, told the gathering that, “Security mechanisms of the African Union and ECOWAS are increasingly being challenged by the threat of violent extremism”.

According to him, “The incidences of violent extremism on the continent demonstrate the extent to which extremist groups are mutating into terrorist groups that undermine the territorial integrity and stability of countries in the sub-region”. The Commandant recommended adoption of immediate steps to address the menace.



The AU Special Representative on Terrorism, Lt Col Gbevlo-Lartey (RTD), during the opening ceremony, drew the attention of the participants to the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action, which calls for a comprehensive approach focused on both essential security-based counter-terrorism measures, and systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalize and join violent extremist groups.

The Minister for the Interior, and Special Guest Speaker for the opening ceremony, Hon. Prosper Bani emphasized that Ghana is taking the necessary steps to prevent violent extremism, but maintained that more efforts are needed in the protection of citizens against violent extremism.



The Minister bemoaned the level of difficulty encountered in mobilizing resources from the donor community for preventing violent extremism, and stressed the need for a change of action plan to focus on preventive strategies rather than recovery from violent extremist attacks.

The Interior Minister commended the KAIPTC for transforming the security landscape in West Africa, and enumerated some of the Centre's contributions to a stable security environment, citing the Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme and the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Course that started at the Centre.

Experts during the two day workshop took turns to share suggestions and concerns on how poor information and intelligence sharing among security agencies of countries in the sub-region was contributing to hampering the fight against extremist teachings and recruitment in vulnerable local communities.

A Fellow at the Centre for Security Governance, and Sierra-Leonean Security consultant, Dr. Ibrahim Bangura said “the approach towards violent extremism for many African states has been relegated to being looked at only as a security issue but there's a need to refocus because it is as much a developmental issue as it is a security issue”.

He added that “if you look at the push factors, most of them have to do with weaknesses of the state like illiteracy, unemployment and grievances that makes it easy for certain groups to approach individuals and recruit them”.

Dr. Kwesi Aning of the KAIPTC noted that “violent extremism does not respect national boundaries; it actually thrives on the bogusness, porosity and incapacity of the State to monitor, curb and control its borders”.

Among others, the two day workshop also provided an opportunity for the relevant government, civil society and local community actors to discuss the concepts of Violent Extremism and Human Security and share experiences and points of view on the issue. Participants also examined the phenomenon of indoctrination and radicalization within local communities, and ended the workshop with a list of priorities/recommendations for stakeholders to implement.

The KAIPTC and the ACSRT will collaborate again in 2017 to organize a Countering Violent Extremism Course through an MoU signed between the KAIPTC and the AU.